

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER IN TWO DAY VISIT
TO NORTHERN IRELAND

1. THE IRISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR. GARRET FITZGERALD SPOKE ON "REGIONAL POLICIES AND THE E. E. C." AT THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION IN MAGEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDONDERRY FEBRUARY 16TH AND AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST FEBRUARY 17TH ON "THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE E.E.C." EARLIER HE SPOKE AT A WEEKEND SEMINAR AT THE CORRYMEELA CENTER OF ECUMENICAL STUDIES COUNTY ANTRIM. HE ALSO MET WITH LEADERS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) AND ALLIANCE PARTY AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE LATE FEBRUARY 17.

2. IN THE MAGEE SPEECH THE MINISTER STATED THAT ALL THE REGULATIONS ABOUT REGIONAL POLICY EXCEPT THE REGIONAL FUND SHOULD BE SETTLED AT NEXT MEETING COUNCIL MINISTERS MARCH 3-4. HE ALSO SAID REGIONAL FUND INADEQUATE AND THAT NORTHERN IRELAND SHOULD ENSURE THAT ITS SHARE IS APPROPRIATE TO ITS NEEDS AND RELATIVE TO NEEDS OF SCOTLAND, ENGLAND AND
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WALES HE EXPRESSED HOPE OF IRISH GOVERNMENT THAT JOINT

IRISH U.K. SUBMISSION COULD BE MADE FOR E.E.C. - SPONSORED
STUDY OF CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT IN LONDONDERRY AREA
WHERE "ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE BORDER IS LOCALLY SEVERE."

3. IN BELFAST SPEECH FITZGERALD OUTLINED ROLE OF PRESIDENCY
OF E.E.C. HE SAID PRESIDENCY COULD NOT GREATLY INFLUENCE
MAJOR ISSUES INVOLVING VITAL INTERESTS OF STATES BUT COUNTRY
HOLDING PRESIDENCY COULD HELP CREATE CLIMATE FOR CONCILIATION.
IRISH AIMS FOR PRESIDENCY HE SAID WERE TO (A) RE-ESTABLISH
MOMENTUM OF COMMUNITY PROGRESS (B) STRENGTHEN LINKS BETWEEN
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND (C) TO
COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO PUBLIC OPINION IN EUROPE AND
ELSEWHERE THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE COMMUNITY.

4. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MINISTER (A) CONFIRMED PROVISIONAL
REPUBLICAN PRISONERS PORTLAOISE JAIL NOW PHYSICALLY
SEPARATED FROM OTHER PRISONERS (B) REPUBLIC GOVERNMENT HAS
INTERNAL PROBLEM WITH ILLEGAL ORGANIZATION AND WILL CONTINUE
TO DEAL WITH ARMED ROBBERS, AND MURDERERS WITH ARREST AND
SENTENCING UNTIL AND UNLESS (PROVISIONAL IRA) DECIDES "TO
ABANDON THEIR ATTITUDE IN THE REPUBLIC" (C) HE EXPRESSED
CONFIDENCE IN WEEKEND DENIAL BY SECSTATE REES THAT AREAS
NORTHERN IRELAND BEING POLICED BY REPUBLICAN GROUPS. HE
COMMENTED IRISH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY WORRIED ABOUT
SITUATION.

5. PARTISAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTED DIFFERENT ASPECTS FITZGERALD
PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LOYALIST "NEWS LETTER" HEADLINING
ASSERTION "BRITISH POLICIES IN ULSTER SATISFY EIRE." GIST OF
FITZGERALD REMARKS THIS SUBJECT APPARENTLY THAT ULSTER POLICIES
OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AT WESTMINSTER HAD BEEN
SAME AS THOSE OF IRISH GOVERNMENT SINCE MARCH 1972 AND HE
EXPECTED BI-PARTISAN POLICY TO CONTINUE. "IRISH NEWS" HIGHLIGHTED
MINISTERS REMARKS THAT PRESENT CEASEFIRE IN NORTH WOULD NOT
CAUSE IRISH GOVERNMENT RELAX PRESENT VIGILANCE TOWARD PROVISIONAL
IRA.

6. DR. FITZGERALD ALSO MET WITH M.P. GERRY FITT AND
VISITED SDLP LEADER PADDY DEVLIN IN HOSPITAL FEBRUARY 17.
IT BELIEVED DEVLIN INTENDS ASK IRISH AND PERHAPS OTHER
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GOVERNMENTS USE INFLUENCE WITH BRITISH DENY PROVISIONAL SINN
FEIN ANY ASSUMPTION OF RIGHT TO POLICE REPUBLICAN AREAS
NORTHERN IRELAND. AMONG OTHER DANGERS DEVLIN SEES
PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN POLICING CATHOLIC AREAS AS DETRIMENTAL
TO PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

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